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THE 47TH SESSION OF THE ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL
OPENS THIS EVENING:

The Arab League Council held the first meeting in its 47th ordinary session at 8.30 p.m. this evening in the presence of delegates from member states headed by the Foreign Ministers or their deputies.

Present at the meeting were Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, El Sayed Ahmed El Shukairy, Secretary General of the Arab League El Sayed Abdel Khalek Nassoua and Dr. Sayed Nofal, Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs.

Dr. George Hakim, Lebanese Foreign Minister and Chairman of the previous session presided over the meeting and invited the Secretary General to deliver his speech.

El Sayed Nassoua welcomed those present and pointed out that Arab action within the framework of the Arab League has now entered a critical stage.

He underlined the need on the part of Arab countries to shoulder their responsibilities and perform their duties honestly and sincerely in the service of Arab causes.

Concluding, the Secretary General wished the delegates success in their endeavour to realise progress and prosperity for the Arab nation. (Text of speech attached).

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Speaking next, Dr. George Hakim conveyed greetings to the delegates and wished them success in handling the subjects on the agenda.

He affirmed Lebanon's adherence to the Arab League Charter and its support of all organisations stemming from the League.

The Lebanese Government, he said, is willing to cooperate with sister Arab countries within the framework of the Arab League which it regards as the proper framework for fruitful dialogue between Arab brethren.

He emphasized the need for preserving the League and working sincerely for its strengthening as it is the organisation which is capable of enhancing fraternal cooperation between Arab peoples and countries.

Concluding, Dr. Hakim invited the Libyan Foreign Minister Dr. Ahmed El Deshty to chair the 47th session.

Taking the floor Dr. Deshty announced the new session open and called for a serious assessment of "the grave responsibilities thrown on our shoulders at this critical phase".

He called for cooperation and solidarity between Arab countries to emerge from the present crisis in Arab relations and lay down the basis for a constructive policy

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that would open up new scopes for cooperation in the future.

This, he said, would enable us to face problems and solve them and to overcome all the difficulties standing in the way of rapprochement and normalisation of Arab relations.

The Libyan Foreign Minister urged the delegates to make genuine attempts to create a healthier Arab atmosphere.

In conclusion, he called for strengthening and consolidation of the Arab League in these unusual circumstances through which it is passing.

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THE ARAB JOINT DEFENCE COUNCIL WINDS UP TENTH SESSION:

The Arab Joint Defence Council held the closing meeting of its tenth session today at the Arab League Headquarters.

Dr. George Makim, Lebanese Foreign Minister and Chairman of the Council announced the public session open^{at 13.30 p.m.} and asked General Mohamed Fawzy, the League's Assistant Secretary General for Military Affairs to read out the statement of the Council.

General Fawzy read out the following statement:

"The Arab Joint Defence Council which held its tenth session from March 11 to 14, 1967 has discussed the subjects on its agenda and adopted the necessary resolutions".

Dr. Makim then took the floor to address the Council at the conclusion of its work. He expressed hope that the resolutions reached would have fruitful results and that the Council would go ahead with its grave task for the benefit of the Arabs as a whole.

In conclusion, Dr. Makim thanked the delegates for the efforts they had exerted to make this session successful and to reach adequate resolutions concerning the items on the agenda and expressed gratitude, in the name of all participants, to the Arab League Secretary General, the Head of the Unified Arab Command and his assistants and the League's Assistant Secretary General for Military Affairs for their contribution to the success of the Council's work.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ARAB INTERNATIONAL TOURISM FEDERATION:

The Executive Committee of the Arab International Tourism Federation has decided to convene a meeting of Arab Tourism

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Ministers within the framework of the Arab League.

The Committee, which held its 14th session in Cairo from March 11 to 13, asked the Federation's Chairman to make the necessary contacts in collaboration with the League's Information Department and the Association of Travel and Tourism Offices to prepare an agenda for the meeting.

A one-hundred sterling prize was awarded Lebanese artist Joseph Gabara for his poster "Welcome" which came first in the competition held between Arab artists for the best tourist poster on the occasion of celebrating the International Tourism Year.

The Committee decided to open the door for all categories of the private sector, individuals and trade unions, to join the Tourism Federation as part-time members.

The Federation thanked the University of Kuwait for its kind offer to translate at its own expense the researches and subject of the Correspondence Seminar to be organised by the Arab Federation in collaboration with the International Union of Travel and Tourism Organisations (IUTTO)

The Committee studied the possibility of a unified Arab stand regarding the reduction of travel fares, encouragement of internal Arab tourism and increase of flights between Arab countries and adopted a number of relevant resolutions. It recommended Arab airlines to apply Creative Dates in the interest of the Arab passenger in order to promote travel.

The Committee paid special tribute to the Arab League Information Machinery for the interest it is taking in the activities of the Tourism Federation.

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Meanwhile, the Executive Committee has decided to accept the invitation extended by the Jordanian Kingdom to hold the next session in Jerusalem at a date to be fixed later.

It also thanked the United Arab Republic Tourism Ministry and the MIsr Company for Tourism for the welcome and hospitality accorded the delegates during the Federation's meetings.

ADDRESS BY ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY-GENERAL
EL SAYED ABDEL KHALEK HASSOUNA AT THE INAUGURATION OF
THE 47TH SESSION OF THE ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL :

Honoured Ministers and Members of the Council,

In the name of the Arab League and in my own name. I welcome you at your home, the home of every Arab, that is, the headquarters of your organisation on which hopes were pinned since its establishment and which has participated in paving the way for fulfilment of the great aspirations of our nation. Achievements and crises came over the Arab League in succession, but it forged ahead with its task expressing the joint will of its member states and striving to make this will resolve itself into a coordinated, effective unity. It could do no more than that, because it has no independent will of its own rising above the will of its member states.

Brethren,

Arab action within the framework of the League has now entered a critical stage. Our common interests, the dangers besetting us all without exception, the joint and destructive imperialist-zionist ambitions along with the inevitability of collective action to bring about economic and social progress and raise the living standard of the Arab masses, underline the necessity of shouldering our responsibilities and performing our duties honestly and sincerely in the service of

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liberation causes in Palestine, the Occupied South, Oman and the Arab Gulf - whose freedom is inseparable from the freedom of other Arab countries.

The presence of Foreign Ministers at this ordinary session of the League's Council and the fact that its inauguration coincides with the conclusion of the Arab Joint Defence Council's work, its constructive researches and unanimous agreement to strengthen Arab cooperation within the framework of the League, indicate that this cooperation is gathering further strength in the pursuit of its nationalist target.

Brethren,

Numerous subjects and issues will come up for discussion at this new session. The General Secretariat is putting before you a register of its work during the period from the last to the present session.

May God take care of you and support your endeavour for the welfare, power, progress and happiness of our nation.
